

# **Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee**

Final Meeting Summary, Wednesday, September 13, 2006

**Himmel Park Library, 1035 N. Treat Avenue**

Tucson, AZ

**Submitted by Melissa Antol**

## **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Diana Tolton at 6:07 pm

## **2. Introductions and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

BAC members and members of the public introduced themselves.

A **motion** to approve the minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by David Bachman-Williams, seconded by Brian Beck, and passed unanimously.

The August 9<sup>th</sup> minutes are attached. There were two errors pointed out in the August minutes. The spelling of Roland Bosma's name (owner of Spooky Tooth) was questioned, but was actually spelled correctly, so no change was needed. Clarification on what the acronym GOHS stands for (Governors Office of Highway Safety) has been added to the minutes and they are now ready for approval.

Chair Tolton suggested combination of agenda item #7 (motorized bikes) with #4 (call to public), since many members of the public came to speak on the motorized bike issue. Beck asked if a motion was needed, and it was determined that the Chair has the authority to move items on the agenda, so agenda item 7 was moved up with item 4.

## **3: City of Tucson Police Dept & Pima County Sheriff's Dept Reports**

Sgt. Bill Murphy provided an update on the fatality that occurred on Harrison Road. The automobile driver was cited \$1000 for failure to adhere to the three foot passing law, which resulted in a fatal crash.

Lt. Mike Pryor reported that so far in 2006 we have had 210 property damage and injury collisions, compared to 196 in 2005. Lt. Pryor mentioned that we might be seeing a spike with these numbers because the University is back in session, and a number of students ride their bicycles as their mode of transportation.

Lt. Pryor reported on TPD's role in the Governors Office of Highway Safety Conference (he having served as the panel moderator for the bicycle and pedestrian safety panel) and emphasized the positive feedback they have been receiving.

John Fleming asked about the University's role with respect to bike safety, and drinking, and how TPD's role changes when school is in session.

Charles Franz responded that University Police ride/patrol around University bikeways. He mentioned a U of AZ article that reported 361 crashes in 2005.

Rosemary Carmody asked what type of education the U of AZ provides. Franz replied they make educational materials available such as the share the road guide, bike maps, and information on impaired driving. The University also provides bicycle registration for both student and non-student bikes.

Chair Tolton suggested that the University give a presentation about their programs and structure to the BAC in November. Franz agreed to try and schedule this for November.

#### **4: Call to the Public & 7: Motorized Bikes**

Melissa Antol reported on the status of the motorized bike issue. She said that the city attorney's office was drafting an ordinance based on the recommendations that came out of the Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood and Public Safety Subcommittee hearing, and was used to develop a draft ordinance for local regulation of motorized bicycles. The draft ordinance will be presented at the full Mayor and Council public hearing scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged the BAC to attend the hearing to voice their support, or opposition on the issue.

Guest Robin Steinberg pointed out the distinction that should be made between gas and electric bikes. She said her friend owns an electric bike and that they have a pedal assist device on them to start the bicycle, and mentioned that the bike is programmed to cut off at about 18 mph.

Bachman-Williams commented that there was a big discrepancy in the speed capability of gas-motorized bikes and that Roland Bosma of Spooky Tooth, inaccurately described their maximum speed capability at the last BAC meeting, and that his information contradicted what is listed on the Spooky Tooth web site.

There was discussion on the flaws associated with the state law, due to the fact that motors could be modified which would allow them to exceed acceptable speed limits.

Sgt. Murphy pointed out that we should remember that once a motorized bike exceeds 20 mph, it becomes a moped, and is subject to rules and regulations for mopeds.

Carmody made a motion to ban motorized bicycles.

Donna Aversa mentioned that the letter the BAC produced stated the BAC's desire to ban motorized bicycles already. She further asked if electric bikes were included in our ban and made a recommendation that perhaps the BAC reconsider the position. Carmody's motion died without a second.

Troy Neiman, from BICAS commented that based on the speeds they travel he did not personally want them in bike lanes, or on shared use paths.

Zach MacDonald commented that motorized bikes should not be banned, on principle, because it sets a bad precedent, and mentioned neighborhood meetings as a forum

Jen Burdick reported how the city handled the motorized scooter process.

Aversa inquired about the enforcement subcommittee report regarding motorized bicycles

John Fleming looked to the BAC for a recommendation, and stated that he felt we should maintain a ban.

Aversa made a motion to have the BAC stick with the original BAC letter, and Bachman-Williams seconded it. There was more discussion on the issue, then the motion passed unanimously, to maintain the original position on motorized bicycles as stated in the BAC's letter.

#### **Other Items from Call to Public**

Neiman, from Bicycle Inter-Community Action and Salvage (BICAS), read and submitted a letter that was addressed to Mayor and Council regarding the Downtown Links roadway

development project. Neiman stated the importance of maintaining the historic structures that comprise the warehouse district, providing bicycle and pedestrian connections, and maintaining the location of the BICAS building downtown. BICAS provided a list of recommendations that should apply to the downtown links projects:

- Comply with Complete the Streets Design methodology
- Separate bike lane from roadway prior to the potential 6<sup>th</sup> street underpass
- Makes the 6<sup>th</sup> street underpass roadway as narrow as possible with bike and pedestrian connections and crossways at ground level
- Create bike path parallel to railroad tracks from 4<sup>th</sup> avenue through to 9<sup>th</sup> avenue
- Focus on creating attractive and safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the roadway (native trees for shade, etc) rather than just a throughway for cars

Chair Tolton and other members asked that BICAS come to present information about what their organization does at a future meeting. The BICAS representatives agreed.

Chair Tolton requested of Antol that the City be scheduled for the October agenda to do a presentation on the downtown links project. Antol agreed to check staff availability.

## **5. Mark Flint – Arizona Trail Association**

Mark Flint is a trail steward and volunteer coordinator for the Arizona Trail Cienega Corridor Project. The trail concept runs from Utah to Mexico and spans 800 miles (with 60 miles left to be built). Flint and his volunteer teams have been doing a lot of work in Saguaro National Park. He announced that a new trail building season will start on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and that they are always looking for volunteers. He mentioned that Beyond Bread sponsors the trail work, so volunteers receive a free lunch from Beyond Bread.

Flint and others also mentioned that supporting efforts like this are good because they provide mountain biking opportunities that also improve our chances of reaching a platinum level rating from the League of American Bicyclists because it demonstrates that we are continuing to build our bicycle network.

People interested in learning about their work, or volunteering can visit their web site at: <http://www.aztrail-build.org>

Zach McDonald stated that he would write a letter for the next meeting that asks that all jurisdictions support the Cienega trail corridor construction.

## **6. BAC Subcommittee Reports/Announcements**

**Education:** Sub-Committee Chair Beck reported that he, Jean Gorman, Martha Lemen and Eric Post met last month, discussed types of projects they should address, and discussed having a desire to work with Antol and the City on the Grant Road Corridor Planning.

Chair Tolton mentioned the **RTA Bike Projects** and asked BAC members if they had responded to Richard Corbett's e-mails. She asked the facilities subcommittee to address the issue.

Bachman Williams requested the city look into bike problem he faces when traveling westbound on the Tanque Verde Loop – Wrightstown Pass, said the area was ground down to obliterate the striping and the result has been really poor quality pavement, that is dangerous.

**Communications Sub-Committee:** Chair McDonald reported the subcommittee has been busy working on two primary issues 1) expanding membership information (what we do, how we communicate information, biographies of membership, how BAC members communicate, etc) and 2) expanding the type of issues the BAC works with.

**Facilities Sub-Committee:** Member Merritt Howard read a statement from its Chair Bill Adamson, who is out of state, which said:

*Here are some of my ideas:*

*1. The name of the subcomm is "Plans, Programs, and Facilities". For abbreviation I'll use "Facilities" which is the result, if we plan and get programs started.*

*2. We should cover both road and mtn bike concerns.*

*3. We should have all areas of Pima County represented.*

*4. Plans:*

*1. Road bike: a. There are many existing plans out there that we need to review and see if anything is missing. I'm more familiar with what PAG has done.*

*Does PC, Tucson, other jurisdictions have plans or are they included in PAG's.*

*b. What projects are underway? Stalled? Status?*

*c. What are the top priorities not yet committed?*

*2. Mtn bike:*

*a. What plans exist? What issues?*

*b. Where are we and what needs to be done? What priorities?*

*We need more members to pull this together and identify what is needed in the various parts of the County. I can get help/info for south of Tucson from the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Comm. Roy is a valuable asset in the Tucson area. Merritt has Sahuarita. Please invite people to cover other areas. We also need mtn bike advocates to join.*

**Executive** – Chair Tolton mentioned the executive committee could meet in her office on Tuesdays at 6 pm. Discussed wanting to address recreational issues, how to honor past members, open meeting law and how it applies to subcommittees.

### **Potential Items for Next Agenda**

- Downtown Links
- Open Meeting law
- BICAS
- U of AZ Bicycle Education
- Federal Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Education Grant – City and County Program

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Members**

Donna Aversa, Oro Valley  
David Bachman-Williams, Pima County  
Brian Beck, Tucson Ward 2  
Dave Boston, Tucson Ward 6  
Steve Bressler, Tucson Ward 1  
Rosemary Carmody, Pima County  
P. Wayne Cullop, Tucson Ward 4  
John Fleming, Tucson Ward 3  
Charles Franz, U of A  
Jean Gorman, Tucson Mayor's Office  
Merritt Howard, Pima County  
Zach MacDonald, Tucson Ward 5  
Hank Rowe, Pima County  
Diana Tolton, Pima County

### **Staff**

Melissa Antol, TDOT  
Lt. Mike Pryor, TPD  
Sgt. Bill Murphy, PC Sheriff's Dept.  
Nancy Ellis, Oro Valley

### **Members of the Public**

Jim Gorman, citizen  
Jen Burdick, DUPD, COT, citizen  
Robin Steinberg, citizen  
Norm Land, citizen  
Troy Neiman, BICAS  
Dawn Villareal, BICAS  
Jeff Ryals, Davis Monthan AFB